

Message Text

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EXDIS

FROM USDEL LOS

FOR INGERSOLL AND MAW FROM AMBASSADOR JOHN NORTON MOORE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: ARCHIPELAGO-STRAITS DISCUSSIONS WITH INDONESIA

1. AMBASSADOR MOORE, ADMIRAL MORRIS AND STUART FRENCH MET WITH MARSHAL SOEDARMONO, AMBASSADOR SANI AND COLONEL WIGNJASAPETRO FOR LUNCH TO DISCUSS THE METHOD OF PROCEEDING IN THE ARCHIPELAGO-STRAITS NEGOTIATION. MOORE CALLED ATTENTION TO THE NEED TO PRODUCE A SINGLE TEXT ON ARCHIPELAGOES FOR INCLUSION IN THE CHAIRMAN'S PACKAGE SINGLE TEXT WITHIN COMMITTEE TWO. IT WAS AGREED THAT A USEFUL WAY OF PROCEEDING WOULD BE FOR THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE TWO TO INVITE ABOUT THREE MARITIME STATES AND THREE ARCHIPELAGO STATES TO A SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS IN A PRIVATE GROUP TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE TWO IN HIS PREPARATION OF A SINGLE TEXT CHAPTER ON ARCHIPELAGOES. TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE WE WOULD THEN REFLECT AREAS OF AGREEMENT IN A SINGLE TEXT LEAVING BLANKS WHERE THERE MAY STILL BE AREAS OF DIFFERENCE. MARSHAL

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 02955 252130Z

SOEDARMONO INDICATED THAT INDONESIA WOULD APPROACH

THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE TWO WITH THIS IDEA.

2. MARSHAL SOEDARMONO, CASUALLY DESCRIBED BY AMBASSADOR SANI AS THE NUMBER THREE MAN IN THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT, SEEMED TO WANT TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT ON THE ISSUES AND INDICATED THAT HE FELT WE WERE NOT FAR APART ON SUBSTANCE. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT FOR QUOTE INTERNAL UNQUOTE REASONS IT WAS BETTER TO PROCEED WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF A GROUP CHAIRED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE TWO RATHER THAN TO SEEK AN UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE U.S. AND INDONESIA AT THIS TIME. BOTH SIDES MIGHT THEN SUPPORT A PACKAGE TEXT ON STRAITS AND ARCHIPELAGOES EMERGING IN COMMITTEE TWO WITHOUT ANY NECESSITY OF A FORMAL UNDERSTANDING OR OPEN DECLARATION.

3. IN AN INTERESTING COMMENT, MARSHAL SOEDARMONO INDICATED THAT HE FELT THE PHILIPPINES WERE NO LONGER A PROBLEM IN THE ARCHIPELAGO GROUP BUT THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE BROUGHT INTO ANY INFORMAL WORKING GROUP ON ARCHIPELAGOES.

4. THE APPROACH THROUGH GALINDO POHL, THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE TWO, WAS REQUESTED ALREADY BY THE BAHAMAS (WITH U.S. BEHIND-THE-SCENES SUPPRT) AND WE HOPE THAT THESE SMALL PRIVATE GROUP MEETINGS WILL ENABLE INDONESIA, FIJI, THE BAHAMAS AND THE MARITIME STATES TO MOVE FORWARD TOWARD AGREEMENT ON A SINGLE ARCHIPELAGO TEXT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE PACKAGE TEXT IN COMMITTEE II.

5. MORE DETAILED REPORTING CABLE FOLLOWS.DALE

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